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Letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued on 5 July 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued on 5 July 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union strongly condemns the provocative missile test launches performed by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These tests, which also included long-range missile systems that could be used to deliver weapons of mass destruction, place additional strain on regional stability at a time when the unresolved nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula requires mutual confidence-building. Such tests are also a matter of more general concern due to their implications for global proliferation.

The tests run counter to the spirit of the joint declaration adopted in the six-party talks in September 2005, and call into question the sincerity of the stated commitment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to implement it. The European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the talks without preconditions and to cooperate fully in implementing the joint declaration.

The European Union calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to contribute constructively to the resolution of the grave security challenges facing the region by re-establishing the moratorium on long-range missile testing that it has unilaterally observed since September 1999. The European Union intends to consult others in the international community on an effective response.

The European Union will continue to actively support efforts to resolve the security issues on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner.